WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 6 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | OCTOBER 2000

"We must encourage creative dissenters. We must demonstrate, teach, and preach, until the foundations of our nation are shaken." MLK

Thurston County Democratic Campaign Headquarters

Occupation in Support of U'Wa

An Anonymous Oly Activist
('cause now it's illegal to protest)

On Tuesday Sept. 19th, protesters in Olympia WA occupied local Democratic Campaign Headquarters to protest the Colombian Military's planned removal of 5,000 people who make up the U'Wa tribe. The protest began in a downtown park where State Troopers soon declared the protest illegal because organizers never asked for permission to protest.

Protesters began marching in the streets as the Olympia police scrambled to redirect traffic. Around 200 protesters headed down Capitol Way, and made a right on 4th Ave. (Olympia's main street), when two people dropped a banner from the railroad stop lights in front of the Democratic campaign headquarters. The banner made Al Gore's connection to Occidental Petroleum, and Occidental's connection to U'Wa land explicitly clear, while hundreds of flyers were passed out to onlookers and passing cars.

Protesters piled in the headquarters and made it their home. Sidewalk chalk art and writing began to appear on the bare cement floor. Protesters entertained themselves with political theater and a reading of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*. Protesters brought in food and mattresses for overnight sleeping . Some people removed candidate yard signs from the walls and transformed them into various signs in support of the U'Wa. Many of those signs were displayed in the front windows and on the street outside.

Police and local campaign officials were dumb struck by the situation, hoping protesters would soon leave. They planned to hold an Election Primary party that evening — not a protest! Campaign officials paced about the office nervously, while they held off the police from forcefully removing protesters. Campaign officials did not want the negative publicity or the U'Wa's story from being told on the nightly news.

Organizers on cell phones alerted the media of the situation in Olympia and news vans were on their way. Others tried to phone Al Gore to make a statement on the subject. A representative of the Gore campaign denied Al Gore's ownership of Occidental Stock, citing Al Gore's mother's ownership of Occidental stock as a mistake on the protesters behalf. Protesters contend that Al Gore's tax records prove otherwise, mentioning that the stock in question was given to him by Al Gore Sr. who served on the Occidental Petroleum board of directors.

Meanwhile, protesters discussed among themselves (with police observation) what their plan would be. Through hours of discussion, protesters agreed that they could not agree on what to do when the police would try to remove them. It was resolved that everyone would do what they felt comfortable doing. Three protesters opted to lock their necks together with U-shaped bike locks while eight others practiced interlocking arms and legs.

It was announced that the Primary Election Party was canceled by this time, and that soon the Democrats would call in the police. Within a half hour, a number of police descended on the headquarters, ordering everyone out or they would be subject to arrest. Most protesters left slowly, while those who chose to stayed.

The Police Attack

Police quickly locked the doors and began to make arrests. Police promptly arrested eight or nine people and led them out the backdoor, onto a city bus. Police then covered the Democrat's windows with butcher paper to block media cameras from viewing the arrest of the three remaining protesters locked together. This police tactic outraged the protesters gathered outside. Following

(Continued on page 8)

KAOS in Transition, Pt. I

A History of Evergreen's Community Radio Station

by Megan Davis

The year 2000 is a landmark year for KAOS 89.3. Its range will be doubled within a year, and this month marks the commencement of live Internet streaming of KAOS programs. Also, this August the station's general manager for 17 years Micheal Huntsberger left the station. KAOS is now passing through a threshold into the next phase of its existence- and at this point nobody can know what that phase will look like. Volunteers, staff and listening community members are participating in an animated (and, at times, volatile) discussion about station direction. While we ponder where KAOS is heading, it's good to think about where it's coming from, so here's some history gleaned from the memories of people who were there. This first part will deal with KAOS' first decade and a half, until the mid-80's. Now, let's start at the beginning.

In the Beginning...

In 1972, some students brought an initiative to Evergreen's Student and

(Continued on page 4)

Civil Rights Endorsements

		NOW	TEAL	WCV	WSLC	WFSE	FV
State Offices							
Governor	Gary Locke (D)	✓					
Secretary of State	Sam Reed (R)			✓			
Lands Commissioner	Mike Lowry (D)			✓			
Attorney General	Christine Gregoire (D)	✓		✓			
Insurance Commissioner	Mike Kreidler (D)	✓		✓			
Auditor	Brian Sonntag (D)	✓					
Treasurer	Mike Murphy (D)	✓					
State Representative							
Legislative District 22, Position 1	Sandra Romero (D)		✓		✓	✓	**YES!**
	Franklin Wilson (R)						**No**
	Joshua Amos (L)						**n/a**
Legislative District 22, Position 2	Sam Hunt (D)				✓	✓	**YES!**
	Bill Pilkey (R)						**No**
State Senator							
Legislative District 22	Karen Fraser (D)		✓		✓	✓	**YES!**
	Randy Brooks (L)						**n/a**
Legislative District 20	Dan Swecker (R)					✓	
	Tom Beattie (D)				✓		
Thurston County Commissioner							
District 1	Cathy Wolfe (D)						**YES!**
	Mike Pettit (R)						**n/a**
District 2	Diane Oberquell (D)						**No**

NOW = the National Organization of Women endorsing state offices only

TEAL = Thurston Environmental Action League endorsing Thurston County offices only

WCV = Washington Conservation Voters endorsing state offices only

WSLC = Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

WFSE = Washington Federation of State Employees/AFSME

FV = Freedom Vote endorsing Thurston County offices only

"YES!" indicates a proven track record in support of GLBT

"No" indicates an unclear position on GLBT issues

"n/a" indicates a lack of response to survey and interview request

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it.)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Letters, briefs, etc.

Hilda Navarrete to Speak

On **Thursday, October 5th**, a leading activist for human rights from the State of Guerrero, Mexico, Hilda Navarrete, will be speaking on the ongoing struggle in Mexico for indigenous and human rights and for democracy in Mexico. Ms. Navarrete will be speaking at **Noon in the Library Lobby at the Evergreen State College, and at 7pm at Traditions Cafi at 5th and Water in downtown, Olympia.** These events are free and open to the public.

Ms. Navarrete has been working tirelessly since 1990 with the Guerrero Human Rights Center, The Voice of the Voiceless, a center that has documented violations of human rights in Guerrero such as torture, illegal incarcerations of the falsely accused, forced confessions and massacres of peasants and grassroots activists. The Center also represents people in court such as the jailed environmental activist Rudolfo Montiel and other jailed indigenous people who are working for indigenous autonomy.

Ms. Navarrete is an indigenous woman from the town of Coyuca Benitez, Guerrero, Mexico who has been active in various social justice movements in Mexico since the 1980s. She is on a speaking tour of the Pacific Northwest that is being organized nationally by the Mexican Solidarity Network. There are speakers from Mexico touring the entire United States that are part of a national campaign aimed at promoting human rights monitoring and the demilitarization of indigenous areas of Mexico, particularly in Chiapas, Guerrero, and Oaxaca, and an end to US military aid and training in Mexico.

Caravan for Justice

6th Annual International Indigenous People's Day: Justice for Leonard Peltier and the First Nations march and rally at the u.s./canadian border (peace arch park).

The caravan is not just for transportion to the march and rally, but also a moving demonstration up I-5 for clemency for Leonard Peltier. **The caravan starts in Olympia, Oct. 7, 10am, Value Village parking lot.** That night we will all stay at the Lummi Nation and in the morning there will be a march on the U.S. / Canadian border for International Indigneous Peoples Day and to Free Leonard Peltier. For more information call (360) 956-3713.

We want to get as many vehicles as possible for the caravan. But we will have room for all who want rides. We are asking each vehicle to place "CLEMENCY FOR LEONARD PELTIER" signs on your vehicle and if you have room place "www.freepeltier.org" on your vehicle so that people have a place to find more information.

Free Plant Exchange

Saturday, October 7th at 10am
First United Church (Legion and 5th)

Bring plants you don't want/take away what you do want. Rain or Shine! For information contact Willow at 352-8996.

PFLAG's Meeting

Sunday, October 8th at 2pm
United Methodist Church

Open meeting: meet the newly nominated board members, share your ideas about where our collective energy can

(Continued page 10)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, 20th

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, 23rd
6pm Place: TBA

Everyone Welcome!

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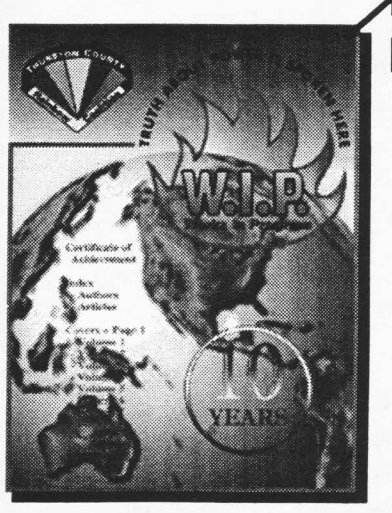

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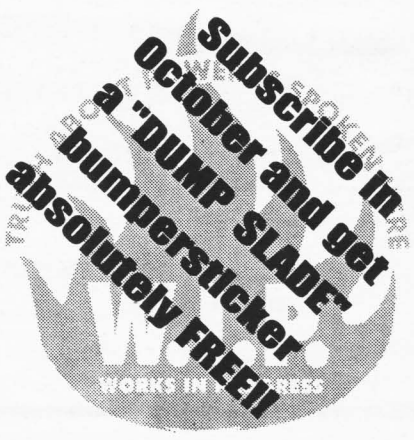

OCTOBER 2000

The world's ice is melting

- August 2000 – open water at the North Pole for the first time in 50 million years.
- The thickness of the vast Greenland ice sheet has been reduced by 42 % over the last four decades. The area of the ice sheet has also shrunk by 6%. This has reduced the Arctic Ocean ice mass by nearly half.
- If the Greenland ice sheet, which is up to 3.2 kilomters thick in places melts entirely, sea level would rise by 7 meters.
- According to World Bank, a 1-meter rise in sea level would reduce Bangladesh's riceland by half.
- The Antarctic continent ice shelves, the portions of the ice sheet that extend into surrounding seas, are fast disappearing. From mid-century through 1997, these areas lost 7,000 square kilometers as the ice sheet disintegrated. But then within scarcely a year another 3,000 square kilometers were lost. Delaware-sized icebergs have broken off threatening ships.
- In Glacier National Park in Montana, the number of glaciers has dwindled from 150 in 1850 to fewer than 50 today. US Geological Survey projects the remaining glaciers will disappear with 30 years.
- The Quelccaqa glacier's (Peruvian Andes) retreat has accelerated from 3 meters a year between roughtly 1970 and 1990 to 30 meters a year since 1990.
- As snow/ice masses shrink, less sunlight is reflected back into space. With more sunlight absorbed by less reflective surfaces, temperature rises even faster and melting accelerates.
- Daimler Chrysler plans to start marketing a car that runs on hydrogen, recognized by even the oil industry as the fuel of the future. The question is whether we can make that shift before Earth's climate system is irrevocably altered.

Source: Lester R. Brown, Worldwatch Institute, 9-4-2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **1999**: 5 year study shows race plays powerful role for success in America, from jobs to education to housing	**2** **1999**: State Dept accuses Gore's campaign chief Coelho of fraud while director of US pavilion at World Exposition	**3** **1999**: Gore says his "close friend" Tony Coelho will stay on as his campaign chairman despite government reports	**4** **1999**: US District Court awards former black IT employee $125,000 supporting his claim he was fired because of his race	**5** **1999**: Pres Clinton signs $289 billion defense bill that includes a pay raise and other incentives for US troops	**6** **1998**: Report published in Pediatrics claims children top source of vitamins and minerals is breakfast cereal	**7** **1999**: Fellowship of Reconciliation's "A Day Without Hate" celebration is held at the Washington Center in Olympia
8 **1997**: Scientists announce Mars, like Earth, has a crust, a mantle and an iron core; may have been hospitable to life	**9** **1999**: Boeing executive warns Washington state to become more friendly to business or Boeing may leave state	**10** **1998**: Volunteers remove trash from the Nisqually River **1999**: IT cuts routes 71, 72, and 92 and the Custom Bus	**11** **1954**: US has fired 2,600 under Communist Control Act **1999**: Clinton asks Senate to delay vote on nuclear test ban	**12** **1999**: The earth's 6 billionth person born **1999**: Nisqually shares excess of 5,000 salmon with the community this fall	**13** **1999**: Senate rejects worldwide nuclear test ban treaty **1999**: Philip Morris acknowledges smoking is dangerous	**14** **1999**: Dept of Agriculture report ranks WA state 8th in percentage of households that are going hungry
15 **1999**: The Dow drops 266.9 points **1999**: 30 year old Doctors Without Borders wins Nobel Peace prize	**16** **1999**: Dallas Morning News reports the FBI had Dr. B. Spock under surveillance because of anti-Vietnam War speeches	**17** **1996** - Eikenberry calls group of GOP women, who support Democrat Gary Locke for governor, "dingbats"	**18** **1969**: Cyclamates are banned **1999**: Gas leak forces evacuation of four blocks in Olympia for 90 minutes	**19** **1987**: NY: Bernhard Goetz gets 6 months **1999**: Only 10% of children eligible received fed. child care assistance in 1998	**20** **1999**: Evergreen Freedom Foundation releases report giving Washington state an "F" for environmental education	**21** **1999**: WA state fines Weyerhaeuser $10,000 for discharging high level of fecal bacteria into the Chehalis River
22 **1999**: WA st Supreme Court rules police must release "incident" reports in cases referred to prosecutors	**23** **1999**: Jerry Falwell met with gay Christians in an attempt to reduce violent acts against gays and Christians	**24** **1999**: Millions of Colombians march demanding a truce, swift progress in peace talks and an end to violence	**25** **1999**: Clinton orders study of drug costs **1999**: Buchanan declares candidacy for Reform Party presidential nomination	**26** **1999**: Supreme Court halts Florida execution to determine if death by electric chair is cruel and unusual punishment	**27** **1999**: WA state regulators agree to raise natural gas prices for Puget Sound Energy customers by 14.6 percent'	**28** **1999**: Lacey officials claim athletic park won't be built if the state doesn't have money to fix Marvin Rd because of I-695
29 **1999**: Woman tells police she was sexually assaulted by men attending regional Army recruiters conference in Olympia	**30** **1995**: Interior Department announces 1/3 of species protected by the Endangered Species Act are still declining	**31** **1999**: After 500 years Catholics and Lutherans finally agree on the salvation of individual Christians	**"...American and industrial society must move from a society based on conquest to one steeped in the practice of survival."** Winona LaDuke			

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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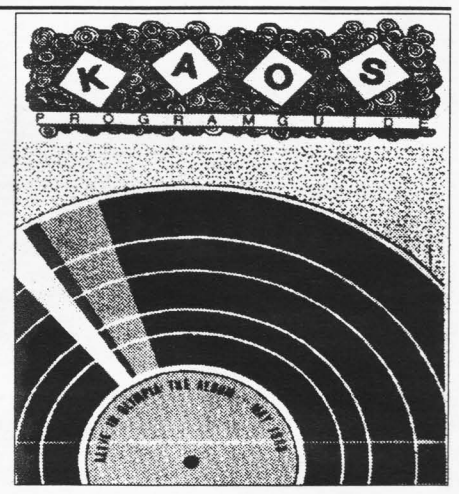
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

KAOS in Transition, Pt. I (continued from page 1)

A History of Evergreen's Community Radio Station -- K A O S, 89.3 F M



Activities (S&A) board that proposed the start-up of a college radio station. The initiative was approved, and in 1973 KAOS began broadcasts. At that time its 10-watt signal barely reached across campus. Their equipment was pretty basic. "In those days KAOS didn't have anything, so I'd go beg stuff from [TESC's] Media Services and sign my life away," laughs Carl Cook, who managed despite obstacles to come up with some pretty outrageous live music shows.

But KAOS did have its own Associated Press (AP) teletype machine. The machine sat in a corner chugging away 24 hours a day, spitting out news stories sent in over a phone line. AP wasn't as slanted and corporate back then as they are now, explained one long-time programmer, and when the Watergate scandal was breaking, the AP was right on top of it. It was an exciting time for the news department.

KAOS occupied the same space in the 70's that it does today, on the third floor of the CAB building, but back then they were squeezed into two small rooms-only half the space they now have. There were no paid positions; even the general manager was a volunteer.

But from the start, there was lots of help. Estimates of the number of volunteers during KAOS' early days average around 70, compared to today's workforce of eight management positions and a little over one hundred volunteers. The size of KAOS is an important aspect of its character. "No commercial station has a staff that big, ever!" says Carl Cook, explaining that the average commercial station in a smaller city like Olympia usually has less than fifteen employees, and no volunteers. "It's a whole different dynamic. It has nothing to do with something like KAOS." In fact, today KAOS is one of the largest volunteer organizations in Thurston County.

You could say the station started with a bang. One late night in the early years, a shot was fired from the library building balcony into the recording studio. The programmer working at that time was unharmed, but the bullethole in the window has remained until this day. Bill Wake refers to it as a symbol of KAOS, explaining that a radical, even revolutionary approach to broadcasting would inevitably receive angry responses from some people. In a way, he says, the shot let KAOS know that it was doing the job it had set for itself.

More and more student workers have come to KAOS looking for real training in usable community radio skills, rather than unstructured exposure to the behind-the-scenes action.

Back then KAOS' programming could be pretty off-the-wall. One regular early-morning show consisted of the live sounds of a deejay couple cooking and eating a hotplate breakfast. There was a children's show on Saturdays which was hosted by a ten-year-old boy, and live folk music at dawn, phoned in from a barn and accompanied by the clucking of chickens. "It was ally loose in the arly days. You ot to experiment lot," says long-me programmer Tom Foote.

Throughout the 70's, KAOS grew in the areas of infrastructure and range: By '80, KAOS had increased to a 1500 watt signal reaching all of Olympia, and student staff numbers had reached 15. Other than a short period when the staff was augmented by a professional advisor, the station remained entirely student-run.

Independent Music Policy

In 1975, KAOS hired its first full-time staff person, a homeless teenager named John Foster who was employed by a federal youth program to work in the community station's record library.

At that time, the term "independent music" was not even used. Foster says that back then regional independent music tended to be almost exclusively a live phenomenon, with very few people doing recordings. But in the mid-70's, more and more people started putting out singles. And then Foster discovered the New Music Distribution Service, which provided access to over one hundred small labels. He began to order punk rock, cutting-edge jazz, some eastern European rock ("that was really terrible," he admits), bluegrass, blues, zydeco, unusual raggae, and more. He brought KAOS music from all over the world. Some of it was music you won't hear on the station anymore, Foster says: "It's farther out than KAOS goes now."

His eventually decided to push for a new station policy that states music on KAOS programs must come from at least 80% independent labels, while 20% or less may come from major (corporate) labels. While KAOS had always contributed to the local independent music scene by playing lots of local music, up until then there hadn't been much discussion about what programmers should play as far as non-local music. This independent music policy met some resistance at the time it was first instituted in '79, but it has since become a defining point for the station, and has been used as a model by other community stations.

In the early 80's, other KAOS workers brought the station closer to the local indie music scene. Local shows were publicized on the station, and KAOS sometimes put on promotional events with local rock bands. In fact, the founders of both K Records and Sub-Pop once volunteered at KAOS. But over the years, as the local indie rock scene has gained momentum and far-spread regard, KAOS has in fact drifted back away from it. Today, some community members want to see KAOS invest more energy in the local indie rock scene.

Block Programming Over the Years

One recent debate at KAOS has been whether or not to institute block (a.k.a. "strip") programming, where blocks of time are dedicated to specific types of programming. Two examples of this are a 6:00-9:00 a.m. block on weekdays that would be devoted to news, weather and traffic reports, or a 1:00-3:00 block for folk and blues music. Some claim that block programming would be beneficial to the station because it would make programming more predictable to listeners, while others argue that it will restrict programmers and stifle programming diversity and creativity.

But in fact block programming is nothing new to the station. The station has used varying types of block programming since at least the late 70's. Programmer Eric Brinker remembers that in the early 80's, block program guidelines discouraged any kind of rock music in the early mornings. Over time it was deemed an unwise rule, since a lot of people want some noise and beat to help them wake up. KAOS also had daytime blocks for specific music genres such as jazz/ classical and folk/ blues, midday and evening blocks for news, and later evening blocks for feature programs and for spoken work/ talk. Rock shows came after 10:00 p.m.

Over time, Brinker says, these guideline got looser until they sort of broke down. But you can still see the vague form of this block framework in KAOS' current schedule.

Professional Staff

In '81 KAOS hit a major turning point. Student staff members were accused of illegal conduct, and a subsequent audit revealed that there were discrepancies in the program and finances. Throughout the drama there was never a break in radio service, and no party was ever found guilty of anything. But there were a lot of flaring emotions and confusion. In the end, some people moved on and some stayed.

After their audit, the college admin-

(Continued next page)

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istration cut KAOS' student staff from fifteen to four positions, and a Disappearing Task Force (DTF) was created in order to recommend structural changes that would increase accountability and financial responsibility. One of the DTF's recommendations was to change the general manager position from a student role to a professional one, and in 1983 the Dean of Enrollment Services hired KAOS studio engineer Micheal Huntsberger for the job. Huntsberger remained general manager of the station for 17 years, up until he resigned this summer.

"KAOS has always been a volatile organization," says John Foster. Some attribute the volatility to the egos of the programmer-performers that are drawn to community radio, and some believe it's brought on by volunteers' passion for their music and work. But most say that whatever causes it, Huntsberger has performed diplomatically through the years.

"Huntsberger served KAOS with consistency," adds Eric Brinker. Before, there was a new general manager each school year, with an interim g.m. during summertime. But with permanent g.m., management could get beyond constant wheel reinvention and better engage in long-term projects. Huntsberger began to teach radio modules and work towards bringing a satellite dish to the station, in order to receive national programs. He also added to the station's managerial staff, first by adding two new student positions, and then by replacing four student positions with three professionals.

Over the years management added to programmer training. "When I started at KAOS the training was almost entirely technical," Huntsberger says, going on to explain that training now gives more attention to content and presentation. "Every year we do more and more stuff on that end: How to do a good interview, how to structure a good music set, how to work with your voice. These are the things that people really want to know."

Skills-building is especially important at KAOS because as a college station, it needs to serve students interested in radio careers. And as the years have gone by, more and more student workers have come to KAOS looking for real training in usable community radio skills, rather than unstructured exposure to the behind-the-scenes action.

The result is that after working at KAOS for a while, a lot of students and volunteers have used their new skills to find employment at other stations. KING, KUOW, KGY and the Mountain are some local stations that have at least one ex-worker from KAOS on their staff. And MIXX 96 is in fact owned and operated by KAOS volunteers who decided to start up their own station in the mid-80's.

Next month, Part 2: The "Healthy Station" Years

Impressions of the Rally for Ralph Nader

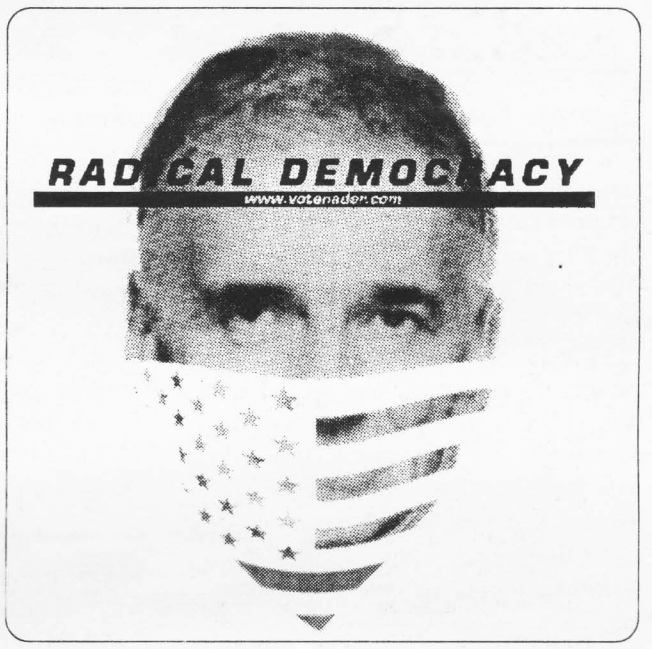
Alice Zillah

Last Saturday I attended the Seattle rally to support Ralph Nader for president. Over 10,000 people paid $10 each to attend the event at the Key Arena, typically the home of Sonics games and rock shows. At three and a half hours, the evening dragged at times, but overall it was a very inspiring and illuminating program.

The rally kicked off with a video about the WTO protests of last year. The graphic footage of police spraying tear gas and chemical spray at point blank range on nonviolent protesters was enraging, and the video was well-produced and professionally edited. However, I couldn't help but feel that, as someone who was both there at the time and has followed much of the press coverage since, I have now seen my full of the WTO protests. I'd rather focus on the issues behind the demonstrations instead of the sensational footage. Following the video, we watched clips from the previous night's rally in Minneapolis. This was a little odd. ("Wait, we're at a rally – why are we watching last night's rally?") However, I was thrilled to see Phil Donahue speaking eloquently about the injustice of the death penalty. Phil looks just the same as he did back in the 80's, but now he's letting his more radical colors shine through. In fact, he's the co-chair of the Nader/LaDuke campaign. After Phil, Winona LaDuke spoke (on the video). Unfortunately, she couldn't attend the Seattle rally so these brief clips were the only opportunity we got to hear her views. I remember her as the keynote speaker at my graduation from Evergreen back in 1997.

Once the real, live, rally began, one of the first speakers was Dan Dzilenski of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Dan was one of the most inspiring speakers for me. He dramatized the split between the national labor movement leadership (increasingly corrupt) and rank-and-file union members who recognize the unity between labor, environmental and social justice movements. The leadership of the Teamsters, AFL-CIO, and other large unions have decided to back the Gore-Lieberman campaign. But around the country there are more and more break-away local unions who are voting to back the Green ticket instead. Both the Teamsters and the Postal Workers unions in Seattle are pledging their support to Nader/LaDuke.

After Dan, Peter Steinbrueck of the Seattle City Council spoke. The most interesting thing I learned from Peter was that the Seattle City Council is now majority Green party. Some of the members are bi-party; that is, they define themselves as both Green and Democrats. If Greens can seize the Seattle council, we can do it here in Olympia!



By far the most invigorating speaker of the evening was the Reverend Robert Jeffrey of the New Hope Baptist Church, who rallied our attention again after a series of well-meaning politicians spoke. Reverend Jeffrey is a simply amazing orator who makes his points passionately and eloquently. By the end of his list of the "Ten Reasons We Must Vote Green" he had the audience on their feet, roaring. Among the Reverend's points were a condemnation of our prison complex, which devours the lives of young black men, and an equally fiery reproach of religious zealots who seek to brainwash children. My favorite was reason number 4: "We must vote Green this year because we can no longer vote WHITE!"

Following some musical numbers (including Seattle fave Artis the Spoonman) author and radio talk-show host Jim Hightower spoke. Jim is probably the most radical person to have ever held political office in Texas. One of his most likable qualities is his ability to deliver a folksy aphorism for every situation. Speaking about the corruption of the two-party system Jim said, "It's like Momma used to say – the water won't run clear until you get the hogs out of the creek!" And whenever quoting something particularly stupid that Gore has said, Jim likes to say, "I may have been born at night, but it wasn't last night!" Jim Hightower powerfully debunked the myth that the left must vote for the lesser of two evils – Gore – come November. He pointed out that it isn't progressives who have irrationally jumped ship on the Democratic party. In reality, the Democratic party has consistently sold out on progressive concerns, by passing NAFTA, the Welfare Reform Act, paltry raises in the minimum raise, et cetera, ad nauseum. Gore and Co. think that by paying lip service to our concerns every four years, they can take the votes of women, labor, and people of color for granted. Then it's business as usual as big business gets to continue to run the country through their selected puppets.

Adding some levity to the proceedings, next the surprise guest came out, and it turned out to be Eddie Vedder playing... ukulele. Eddie said that he'd never backed a politician because there had never been one he believed in before Nader. He played two songs and then introduced the man of the evening.

Nader came out on stage, waving, followed by what looked like security agents wearing dark suits. As confetti rained down on the crowd I thought, "Wow, I feel like I'm at a REAL rally!" However, the difference between this event and a pep rally for the Republicrats was quickly made clear. Nader spoke for an hour and a half about real issues and drew on American history to draw contrasts between the Green movement and struggles in the labor, Civil Rights, and Suffragist movements. I doubt that George W could even pronounce "Suffragist". Nader of course is the person who essentially created the consumer protection movement and formed the group Public Citizen in 1971. As a result, he is much more knowledgeable speaking about the abuses of corporations and the inadequacy of laws to protect Americans than he is, for instance, about foreign policy, which was given short shrift. (Nader does make his foreign policy positions known on his web site, www.votenader.org.) Nader effectively pointed out that the wealth this country is supposedly enjoying right now has increased for only 20% of the population. The other 80% of us have seen our income levels plateau or decrease over the last ten years as the service industry has expanded and manufacturing jobs have continued to dry up.

Nader went through his platform, point by point. His favorite initiative he said was the one that would institute a "None of the Above" category on the ballot for every elective office. If a voter didn't want to vote for any of the candidates she or he could select the none of the above category, and if this category received the majority of the votes, new candidates would have to come forward to run.

By this time it was 10:30 and getting difficult to absorb everything that Nader was saying. The great thing about him is that he's fundamentally not a politician – he doesn't wrap up his points in neat little anecdotes. Instead he speaks to the audience as intelligent equals, taking time to explain his platform and the reasoning behind it. This makes him a challenging speaker – he's engaging in a dialogue with the audience instead of performing a calculated song-and-dance routine like Gore and Bush.

I left the rally tired but inspired. Soon after I visited the web site, www.votenader.org, to read more about Nader and Winona LaDuke's platform, and to sign up to volunteer.

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Up Front

An Open Letter to Joe Lieberman

Jerome Johnson

Dear Senator,

Please shut up, and change the subject.

Ever since you were nominated, all I've heard you talk about are how close you are to God, and how "we must put faith and God back into public life" and how the country needs "morality." Lately you've been whining about the content of some music, movies and other media that you find offensive—although not so offensive that you would stop accepting campaign money from the same people who make the entertainment you'd like to censor.

Reality check: you aren't running to be Vice Parent.

Senator, I think I understand why you and your boss, Al Gore, are taking this approach. For the past 20 years, Republicans and their candidates nationwide have been thumping their Bibles and preaching "morality" and prayer in school. The Christian Coalition and the Religious Right in general were born in the crucible of the Emperor Reagan's terrible reign, when the GOP embraced them. In return, the religious fanatics supported GOP candidates, which was easy to do because GOP candidates are usually conservative and in tandem with most, if not all, the Religious Right's beliefs. This arrangement has worked so well that now religous conservatives dominate the Republican Party, and if he's elected, Dubya had better watch his step. They're suspicious that—like Poppy Bush—he might be too compassionate, and not conservative enough.

So, Senator, you and Gore—both of you sharp political scientists—decided to outflank the GOP and the right on this issue. You felt it was especially necessary given the fact that anger and disgust at Slick Willie's infidelity could rub off on Gore. In the current climate it wasn't enough that Gore has a reputation as a solid family man—his choice for veep had to be one, too. Nominating you was smart: you were the first powerful Democrat to chew Slick Willie out in public—from the Senate floor, no less! Your devout faith neutralizes the GOP on that front, especially since you're Jewish. Any criticism of you and your expressions of faith run the risk of being labeled anti-Semitism. And as a New Democrat, you're conservative enough to appeal to that Middle Vote y'all care about so much, to the point of taking the traditional Democratic blocs for granted. (Beware, Senator—that's a mistake. Many of us are tired of that, which is why we're voting for Nader.)

Well, we get the same message, and it's time to stop preaching. You see, many of us are getting scared because you're starting to sound more conservative and Republican by the day. Just like them, you're going around bragging about your faith and piety. Worse, you're trying to get the rest of us to participate. Constant preaching is bad enough; but you're going way too far with this censorship attitude. I hate to break this to you, Senator, but I'm a grownup. I don't need and certainly don't want you, Al, Tipper or anyone else telling me what music, media, movies etc. are appropriate enough for me to peruse or create. If I want your views on content, I'll ask—and your opinion is all I want, not efforts at censorship. Nor is it your business to tell others, whether they be Hollywood moguls or independent artists. I'm more than mature enough to decide for myself, and if it's kids you're worried about, parenting anyone's except your own is none of your damned business. And choices about media and entertainment for kids IS the parents' job—not yours or Tipper's, as she found out a few years ago when she was crusading against explicit lyrics. Like it or not, Senator, this ain't a call you get to make.

You see, many of us are getting scared because you're starting to sound more conservative and Republican by the day.

Politically, you've made your statement, so move on. Don't try to get into a "piety contest" with the GOP, with each side shouting "We're Holier Than Thou." It won't work because the religious conservatives you're trying to woo will still vote Republican, and the rest of us will see it for the naked pandering it is and vote for Nader in even bigger numbers. Indeed, it's time you put your faith back into your heart(where it belongs) and talk issues, like your boss. If you're asked about your faith and opinions, keep the answers concise and get back on message. We need to know your stance on foreign policy, defense, education, poverty, "justice", health care, social services.. If you need advice, let me know—I'm more in touch with ordinary folks than your other advisers, and a lot cheaper.

Now, I'm not saying you should hide your devotion. Not by any means. But you'll be a lot more effective if we saw you walk your talk once in a while. I look forward to seeing you volunteer time at a poor school, recycling materials, helping at hospitals and AIDS clinics, distributing food at a food bank, taking on an at-risk youth and mentoring him, or some other religious activity. Don't worry about the Secret Service—they'll understand you're exercising your faith, bringing it back into public life.

In Cameroon, work continues on the oil pipeline.

In Cardenas, Cuba, Elian Gonzalez has gone back to school.

In Selma, Alabama, James Perkins becomes the city first black mayor.

And in the Nisqually Valley, residents are winning—so far—a fight to keep an asphalt plant out of their community.

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Public Utility Districts:

Power for the People

Paul Pickett

About 70 years ago, the citizens of Washington said they were sick of being exploited by private power utilities. In November, 1930, the "Grange Power Bill" was passed by a vote of the people, which created Public Utility Districts. P.U.D.s are publicly owned non-profit districts that provide electricity, water, sewer, and/or telecommunication services to the customers in their service area.

The vote in 1930 culminated years of struggle by farmers, socialists and unionists. Residents of rural areas had been frustrated by high rates and poor service, when they had electric service at all. For the alternative they had only to look at the two municipal public utilities, Seattle City Light and Tacoma City Light, formed at the turn of the century. The municipal utilities were successful in providing efficient service at lower rates. Residents outside the cities wanted public utilities as well.

Central to the battle for the P.U.D. bill was the Washington State Grange. For those unfamiliar with the Grange, it may only seem to be a quaint club that does quilts and displays of vegetables at the fair. Yet from the 1870s to this day the Grange has been a strong advocate of the rights of farmers to control their destiny when exploited by private corporations.

In the 1870's farmers were being ruthlessly exploited by grain storage companies and the railroad trusts, who conspired together to earn huge profits through exorbitant rates. The Granges became centers of resistance, which resulted in the passage of "Granger Laws" in many states that regulated the rates charged by the railroads and storage companies. Their greatest victory was a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1876, which laid the groundwork for most of the social justice legislation of the 20th century. In the words of Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite, private property "becomes clothed with a public interest when used in a manner to make it of public consequence, and affect the community at large" and under those circumstances "must submit to be controlled by the public for the common good".

The Granges were in the midst of other fights for democracy in the late 1800s and early 1900s, including the women's vote and the initiative and referendum process. In the 1920s they took up the fight for public power. Not surprisingly they were fought tooth and nail by the private utilities. Leaders such as Homer T. Bone of Tacoma and State Grange master Albert S. Goss worked for six years on public power, working to educate the public in the face of corporate disinformation. Goss explained it this way: "Private ownership means perpetually going into debt. Public ownership means getting out of debt. Buying public power is like buying your home. When the mortgage is paid off and you have the deed in your hand, you are truly the owner. Buying from a private utility is like renting forever, and all you ever own is a pile of rent receipts."

After years of work, and in the midst of a deepening depression, the Grange Power Bill was presented to the legislature as an initiative from the people. The legislature refused to pass the bill, and it was sent to the general election where it passed handily. In the subsequent years P.U.D.s were voted in throughout the state, until now there are 28 operating P.U.D.s that serve over 1.5 million customers. Combined with municipal utilities, co-ops, and mutuals, public utilities provide electricity to 54% of Washington's population. This compares to a rate of about 25% nationwide. Private utility customers pay over 30% more for electricity than P.U.D customers.

In the 1930's the battle for public power went to the national level, which resulted in the creation of the Bonneville Power Administration. The BPA purchases, distributes, and sells power to public utilities, who get a discounted rate compared to private utilities.

P.U.D.s have also branched out into other utilities. Nineteen P.U.D.s offer water and/or sewer service. P.U.D.s are now also branching out into telecommunications. As part of their electrical system, BPA and many of the electrical P.U.D.s have fiber optic cable for their control and communications system. A bill passed the legislature last year that allows P.U.D.s to be a wholesale distributor of BPA's excess fiber optic capacity.

Over the years P.U.D.s and municipal utilities took over many of the private utilities in their jurisdiction. Seattle City Light purchased the properties of Puget Sound Power and Light in 1950. In the early 1950s Thurston P.U.D. began looking into a similar action. However, with the election of new Commissioners unsympathetic to a take-over, the project was dropped. About 10 years ago the voters of Thurston County were asked to dissolve Thurston P.U.D. Proponents of public power argued that citizens should keep their options open, and the dissolution failed by about 60%. Currently the P.U.D. has jurisdiction over the Tanglewilde/Thompson place water system.

We can give credit to the democratic processes of public power for contributing to the collapse of nuclear power in Washington.

One of the great battles for P.U.D.s in recent years was the struggle over WPPSS in the 1980's. Lead by activists around the state, such as The Evergreen State College's Dan Leahy, slates of candidates were run for P.U.D.s throughout the state on the platform of getting WPPSS out of the nuclear power business. Many of those candidates were successful and serve as P.U.D. Commissioners to this day. As a result, we can give credit to the democratic processes of public power for contributing to the collapse of nuclear power in Washington. The silent cooling towers of the Satsop nuclear plants stand as tribute to public power, and to people power.

Paul has lived in rural Thurston County with his wife and three sons for over 12 years. He is running in the PUD race. [see sidebar]

Pickett Seeks Active Role for Thurston P.U.D.

Paul J. Pickett is running for Thurston Public Utility District, a nonpartisan position. Thurston P.U.D. has three Commissioners that each serve six year terms. Paul is running for District 1, which will be the only P.U.D. race on November's ballot.

Paul runs for this race with strong progressive credentials. He has been a leader in the Washington Public Employees Association, who has endorsed him. Paul has also been endorsed by the Thurston-Lewis Labor Council and the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443. He is a Board member for the South Puget Environmental Education Clearinghouse (SPEECH) and a staff writer for their monthly publication *Green Pages*. He serves as a Democratic Precinct Officer and is a member of the South Sound Greens. Last November Paul and his sons marched with the unions at the WTO protest in Seattle.

Paul says, "The Battle in Seattle taught us the power of broad-based coalitions. In his rally at Seattle Ralph Nader told us to harness our desire to correct injustice and take action. The P.U.D.s share their roots and values with the union movement. They also offer the potential to serve the public by protecting their drinking water and the environment. That is why I want to serve on the P.U.D."

He has been very active in other community organizations over the years, including serving as a Board member. As a community leader, he has learned the importance of sound financial planning, high quality service, good communication, and finding "win-win" solutions to problems.

Paul brings strong qualifications to the P.U.D. He is a Civil Engineer with a Professional Engineer's license, and brings over 15 years of training and experience in water resource engineering. He currently works for the State Dept. of Ecology where he works on solving water pollution problems. "An engineer learns to collect information, evaluate costs, and plan for the future. An environmental engineer looks at all that and looks at the big picture too," says Paul.

Paul's goals for P.U.D. Commissioner fall into three areas: *Quality* – providing the best possible service at a reasonable price, and using the powers of the P.U.D. to protect public health and the environment. *Economy* – finding ways that the P.U.D. can save money for consumers. *Openness* – ensuring clear communication about P.U.D. decisions and easy access to the P.U.D. for customers and the public. Paul notes that "the P.U.D.s serve the public and can go where for-profit businesses won't go. As a non-profit they can save money, and they can include the public interest in their planning."

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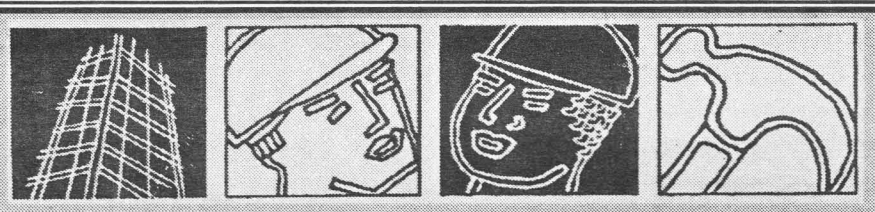
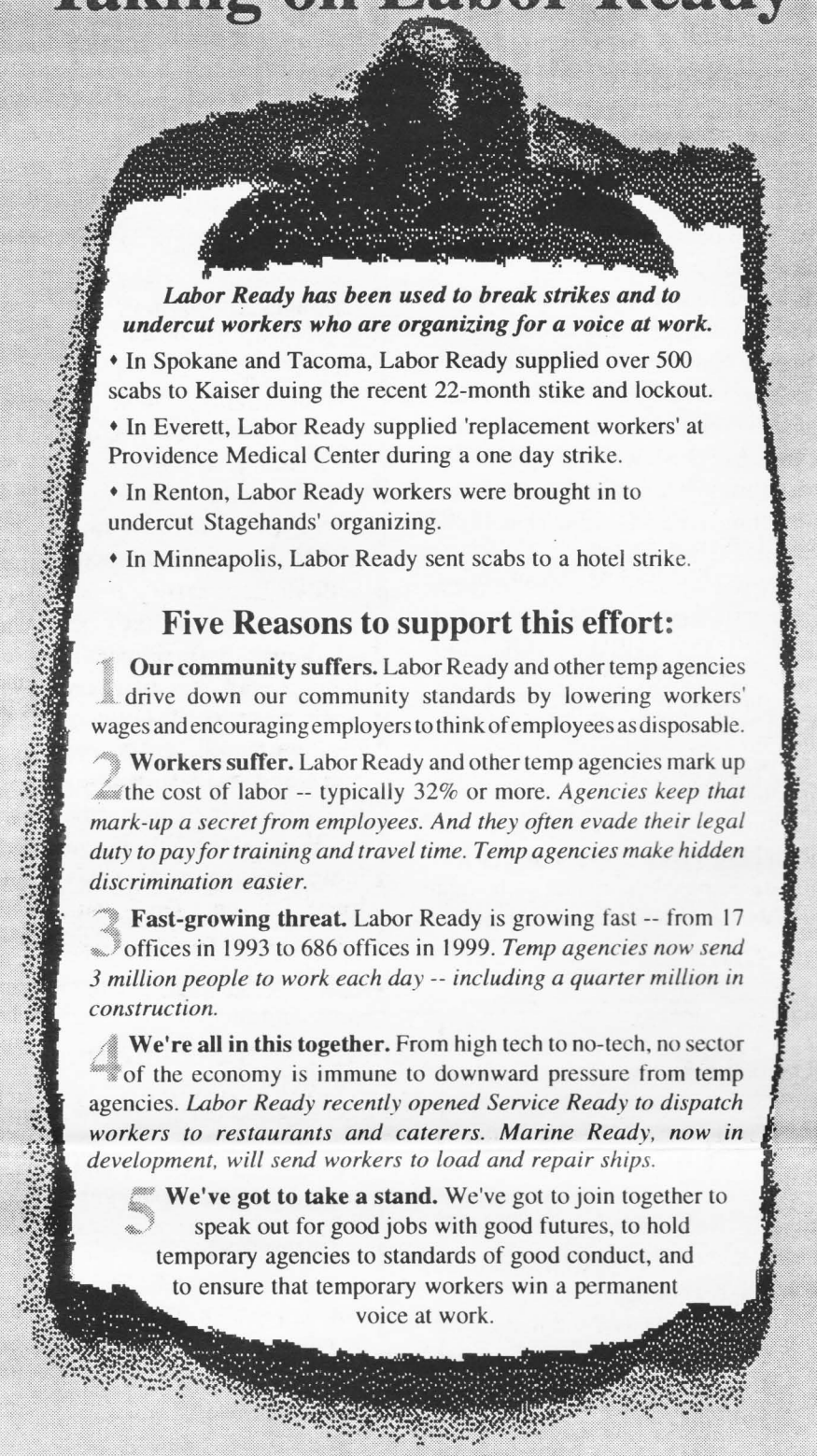


Taking on Labor Ready



Labor Ready has been used to break strikes and to undercut workers who are organizing for a voice at work.

- In Spokane and Tacoma, Labor Ready supplied over 500 scabs to Kaiser duing the recent 22-month stike and lockout.
- In Everett, Labor Ready supplied 'replacement workers' at Providence Medical Center during a one day strike.
- In Renton, Labor Ready workers were brought in to undercut Stagehands' organizing.
- In Minneapolis, Labor Ready sent scabs to a hotel strike.

Five Reasons to support this effort:

1 **Our community suffers.** Labor Ready and other temp agencies drive down our community standards by lowering workers' wages and encouraging employers to think of employees as disposable.

2 **Workers suffer.** Labor Ready and other temp agencies mark up the cost of labor -- typically 32% or more. *Agencies keep that mark-up a secret from employees. And they often evade their legal duty to pay for training and travel time. Temp agencies make hidden discrimination easier.*

3 **Fast-growing threat.** Labor Ready is growing fast -- from 17 offices in 1993 to 686 offices in 1999. *Temp agencies now send 3 million people to work each day -- including a quarter million in construction.*

4 **We're all in this together.** From high tech to no-tech, no sector of the economy is immune to downward pressure from temp agencies. *Labor Ready recently opened Service Ready to dispatch workers to restaurants and caterers. Marine Ready, now in development, will send workers to load and repair ships.*

5 **We've got to take a stand.** We've got to join together to speak out for good jobs with good futures, to hold temporary agencies to standards of good conduct, and to ensure that temporary workers win a permanent voice at work.

Come to a rally for justice for temporary workers on October 25th in Tacoma (watch for flyers)

For more information, contact Pierce County Labor Council, AFL-CIO 253-473-3810

(U'wa, continued)

screams from inside, protesters outside began to pound on the covered glass windows. Police reacted by pushing protesters to create a buffer zone between them and the building. Little skirmishes faded quickly as the police positioned themselves, but tensions between police and protesters did not.

Many protesters feared the immediate threat of the police applying more physical force on protesters inside the building and out. After a series of screams from the protesters inside, those on the outside moved around the corner waiting to see the three locked protesters come out the back door. Protesters were pushed back by police as the backdoor opened. Other police officers rushed to make a semicircle around the door and the parked city bus. Protesters blockaded the bus by sitting in its path. Three officers then suddenly pounced on a man on a bicycle and wrestled him to the ground. He screamed madly, with his chin bloody against the concrete, as the three officers put cuffs on him. Police then dragged the locked protesters onto the sidewalk leaving one without blood circulation in her legs and arm.

Some protesters became angry with what they were witnessing and began to shout at the police officers. Police then rushed the crowd, swinging their batons indiscrimately. In this chaotic moment, Police suddenly formed a line crossing the street and then dispersed a minute later, leaving the three locked protesters on the sidewalk. People spontaneously ran to aid the protesters still locked together who luckily escaped serious injury. Others planned a march to city hall where the weekly City Council meeting was in session.

At City Hall

When reaching city hall, approximately twenty protesters were greeted by a line of police blocking their entry into the meeting. Police officers and the city attorney justified their actions on the preemptive assumption that protesters would disrupt the meeting. Protesters informed the authorities that they were violating the first Amendment of the Washington State and U.S. Constitutions by prohibiting the rights of citizens and the press to attend the public city council meeting. After numerous minutes idly waiting, the city attorney stepped aside to allow protesters to pass.

When inside, protester's testimonies ranged from police misconduct and accountability to the plight of the U'Wa. City council members promised to "look in to" the issues protesters brought to their attention before moving onto other business.

The Aftermath

Protesters intend to continue tarnishing Al Gore's presidential campaign if he does not take a stand on the many issues the U'Wa situation encompasses. Cutting to the core of Gore's environmental "standing up to big oil" rhetoric, protests in support of the U'Wa, and their commitment to the earth's preservation, will not go away.

Two more protesters were identified by police surveillance and arrested the next day. Olympia police demanded that the local college release student pictures and information for further identification. The college refused, but police promise to be back with court soepenas to make more arrests.

Background to U'Wa

Around 5,000 inhabitants of the U'Wa tribe live in the cloud forests of northern Columbia. Currently, they are peacefully resisting Occidental Petroleum's drilling on lands U'Wa legally own through treaty rights. Over 3,000 U'Wa are willing to commit mass suicide, by collectively jumping off a cliff, rather then have their traditional ways of life and environment destroyed before their eyes. This threat should not be taken lightly due to the historical precedent of many U'Wa plunging to their death to avoid slavery at the hands of the early conquistadors.

The Colombian Military, in charge of removing U'Wa from their land, has stepped up intimidation tactics. According to a Rainforest Action Network spokesperson in contact with the U'Wa, the Colombian military has fired shots randomly from helicopters above the forest.

The U'Wa continue to nonviolently resist their worsening situation.

The Colombian Military will soon go forward with plans to forcefully remove the U'Wa, unless . . .

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C A R I N G - - - - - - - - - - - -

by Frank Hoffman

Perhaps working for justice begins with caring for people outside your family. A modest thought. And where does caring end?

So much of our caring is self-involved in one way or another. We are concerned about others because we want them to be concerned about us. We don't want to be alone. Being part of the world wide struggle for justice provides a family and an identity. The internet, by calling for and remarking upon, worldwide actions makes this global togetherness clear. In some ways this activism substitutes for our disintegrating communities and families. This caring among friends replaces the closeness of neighbors. The activists become our friends, for better or worse.

Olympia, partly because of TESC and because it is the state capital, has a significant number of street and political activists. Many of them are people who came to Olympia to attend college and stayed.

The college activists make their contribution, do their thing, and go on about their lives. Their Olympia activism becomes part of their college and political experience. Many students come to like Olympia, its small town funkiness, its do-it-yourself subculture, and they become attached to it and some stay. Others seem to see Olympia as essentially a party site and they often leave a mess behind.

The part of the Olympia community whose focus is almost solely on themselves and their families,watch the activists and the activism, when we cross their paths one way or another, with disbelief, curiosity, cynicism, sympathy, befuddlement and anger. Some of them can't think of anything to say to us except, get a job. Others accuse our parents of doing sloppy jobs bringing us up. They tend to see the activists as an homogenous group of 19 year olds unduly influenced by pot and a book they read. (I'm slightly older and I read two books, but I only understood one.)

Then there is local government and its armed servants, the police, who are all also part of the Olympia community. Stir the acivists, the City Council and the police together well and step back. That is what has been going on since the Seattle WTO protests. The Olympia Mayday demonstration and street party brought things to a boil, so to speak, and things have been simmering ever since.

In a big city, all parties can sort of be anonymous if they want - the activists, the police and city government. Everybody goes their own daily way. In Olympia, all three parties can accidentally bump up against each other without really trying, while taking a walk or shopping in a grocery store. And it doesn't take much trying to make it happen intentionally. The city council meets every Tuesday. The police can read the event flyers posted on the telephone poles or on the internet. We now know 50 people gathering unannounced with some signs in Sylvester Park will draw a half dozen state police to hold the gazebo, in case the activists were planning on burning it down. Things have become tense in a way they were not before. A year ago, things were usually pretty ho-hum if there was a street demonstration.The activists marched down the street, some motorists on their way to COSTCO got impatient, the police came, tried to stonewall the demonstrators (sometimes successfully) then directed traffic and everybody soon went home. The media and the public either got the point of the protest or not. It made a difference or things stayed the same. That is changing and we are pushing the change.

What is the price of caring, who totals the sum and where does the caring end?

The larger Olympia community has trouble demonizing the police. They, both men and women, obviously put their pants on one leg at a time just like everybody else. (Though some of them, like the sheriff, apparently need help.) It's maybe easier here in Olympia to caricature and demonize the college students and aging hippies, than it is to dismiss the police as "the other". Particularly if you have lived in Olympia a long time, never went to college or think pot smoking leads down a steep road directly to hell.

Likewise, if you are a street activist who has been here awhile, you recognize the police, know some by name and many by reputation. The police are not an homogenous group. It would be easier if they were, like the riot police in Seattle appeared to be. Good guys and bad guys. We are good and the ones with the herky equipment belts are bad. It makes it easier to hate, hurt or sneer. Maybe even necessary.

If the police are not the enemy, who is? (As the Cowlitz man said) If the police are not the enemy, then why do we always end up nose to nose with them? Everywhere in the world, not just here in Olympia or in the other Washington. Maybe if there were no laws and no weapons, there would be no police. And no property, no laws.(Perhaps concern about justice for all people leads there.)

The police, of course, can make themselves the enemy. All they have to do is stop thinking about what they are doing and become violent. Perhaps the same can be said of us activists. Do I frighten people here in Olympia,because the government, acting to protect the property of specific, wealthy, individuals, does violence to people elsewhere? Do I eliminate whole categories of people from my concern, my caring, because they wear uniforms and do what they are told. Where does my caring end? And doesn't everybody - everybody - total the sum? If we begin excluding categories of people, instead of individuals because of their acts, then aren't we replacing one kind of fascism with another?

And if we create a mess, it is the low wage workers that clean up after us, not the owners. Maybe if we expect workers to join us, and it seems necessary eventually that they do, then they may look to us to show them respect now.

We make an effort to hold government and the powerful accountable for their actions. How are we held accountable for ours and by whom? These are not easy questions. They may be important ones, particularly if we are serious and in love with life. Reponsible creation is thoughtful as well as joyful. Revolution aims to give back and not just take away. It may need to be caring as well as brazen.

JOHN SAID

by Frank Hoffman

John Trudell, the American Indian Movement activist, performance poet, prophet and writer of cheezy love poetry - well, love is tricky for old guys. At a concert John gave at Capital City Playhouse a couple years ago to a small, adoring crowd, after a power outage moved the performance downtown from Evergreen, a woman sitting near the stage said,"John, we love you."John laughed, grinned, and said back," You don't want to say something like that to me,I'm crazy."

Years before this, at an Olympia spoken word performance, John said, Once you pick up that gun, you can't put it back down.

That's the same John who said the Western Europeans who came to this continent (hey, that's my ancestors, John) were like a virus (hard to stamp out those disease virus.) John is badass and plainspoken. Once you pick up that gun, you can't put it back down. John's family was murdered while he was a national leader of AIM.

Years later, this brave, crazy, indigenous leader, says this hippie, Buddhist thing: Once you pick up that gun, you can't put it down.

We love you, John.

An Open Letter To Prisoners of Texas

>From Books To Prisoners

We've been working hard sending books to Texas prisoners, as well as those in other states. During this time we have sent thousands of books to Texas.

We want you to understand we are running way behind in processing your requests for books, have been for some time, and we want you to know why. One reason is the number of prisoners in Texas keeps increasing and our job then keeps getting bigger and bigger.

We are a diverse group of individuals who have come together to help fill the need for education and literature for the prison population of Texas. We are a small group of volunteers - we're not a large clearinghouse kind of operation.

We want to send you the books you ask us for, but often we just don't have the resources to do that. All our books come from community donations. All the money we have goes into mailing packages and minimal basic operational expenses like rent and wrapping paper. Our community here makes Books To Prisoners possible by its donations of books and money. Books to Prisoners is entirely dependent on our community.

We are currently doing everything we can to improve our services to you, the prison population. We are trying to catch up with your requests and make our turnaround time faster. We don't like being so far behind. We are also trying to improve the quality of material we send you. these improvements will take time and require more help from the community. We want you to know that each and every volunteer is dedicated to providing the best service we can with the resources available to us.

There are some things you can do to help us out. Please try to wait the 9 months before adding another request. It now can take us 5 months to get your books to you because of the large number of requests. So don't send us another request just because you haven't heard from us. Duplicate requests contribute to us falling behind. Send stamps when you can. When we get a request with several postage stamps, we send it with a higher priority that cuts a week or so out of the process of getting the books to you. Also, we sometimes don't have the books you request, so it would help if you give us a larger range of authors, subjects and areas of interest. These things would help us do a better job for you.

Please write your name, prison number and address CLEARLY - both on the envelope and the letter. It's really frustrating to us when we can't read them or an i.d. number is left out. We are unable to successfully send a package without the i.d. number.

Know we are trying to concentrate on educational materials and solid works of fiction like classics and prize winning books, not supermarket authors. Our thinking is that we want to give you the best we can with what we have. We are currently sending hundreds of packages a month to Texas alone and this uses up a lot of our resources. Please share what we send with others, when you can.

We hope this letter gives you an idea of who we are and what we are up against. Bye for now.

A letter to the community from books to prisoners

Thanks to everybody, in particular Olympia area people, for all the support you have given to Books To Prisoners, Olympia Support Group (B TO P,OSG.) Without this support, we would not be able to carry out our mission of providing educational materials and literature to inmates across the country.

It is because this area is such a great, diverse and generous community it can support projects like B To P. The people who support B To P with their time, books, money and stamps are Books To Prisoners, you make it possible - not just the volunteers who fill the requests and wrap packages.

As we look down the road, the job of B To P never ends. The prison population keps increasing and so does inmate awareness of the project. Thus the demand for books keeps increasing. This has put us way behind in our response to requests from prisoners. There is a lot of room for improvement in our service. This will occur only if the community keeps up its support of this project.

Books To Prisoners can only be as great as this community wants it to be. Although we have received impressive support, we need even more to deal with the challenges ahead.

We need more books, more stamps, more volunteers and more money to accomplish our mission. Also, the quality of literature we send needs to continue to improve. We ask you to sacrifice more of your "good books" in order to meet the growing demand and help prisoners in their self education. And we urgently need books in Spanish. We need books on Black and Latino History and we always need paperback dictionaries, both English and Spanish/English and thesauri.

We need your increased support. Thank you for all you have already done. Only in a highly literate area like this can a project like B To P/OSG flourish. GO Olympia, Go!!!

Briefs, continued

create change, and offer suggestions for future meeting programs. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Feminists In Self-defense Training

Beginning October 12th and running once a week for 6 weeks ending November 16th, the class will be held at the Olympia Community Center from 6 to 8:30pm. This class will cover many of the F.I.S.T. course topics such as intuition, vocal and physical skills, ground fighting, weapons of opportunity, strategizing, and more. Remember, all women are welcome to attend. The fee for this class ranges from $0-35 per person on a sliding scale basis, no one is ever turned away due to their ability to pay. We can also help assist you with child care if that is needed. For more information please call our business line at (360) 438-0288 and leave a message.

Stories of Community: What Separates Us and What Brings Us Together?

In collaboration with Bread and Roses

Friday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Traditions - 300 5th Ave SW

(downtown Olympia)

Cost Suggested donation $5-10 (No one is turned away and group rates are available)

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue. Each month we invite a guest artist, community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community. This month we will be collaborating with Bread and Roses.

The mission of bread and Roses is to provide food, shelter and dignity to the poor and homeless in greater Olympia. In order to successfully implement their mission, Bread and Roses provides the following services: Soup Kitchen and Drop-In Center (they feed 150 people per meal, 2 meals a day, six days a week); and Guesthouse Shelter (they house single women and two families). They depend on the volunteer services and financial generosity of the community.

US Army School of Assassins

Sat- October 28th from 2-4pm

TESC Lecture Hall 3

Fr. Roy Bourgeois is a Maryknoll priest and founder/director of School of Americas (SOA) Watch. SOA Watch does research on the US Army School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Fr. Bourgeois has pointed out that most of the human rights violators and dictators from Latin America were trained at the combat school and it provides official US acceptance of Latin American human rights abuses. In Latin America the US Army School is referred to as the "School of Assassins"

Fr. Bourgeois, who served as a navy officer in Vietnam during the war, joined the Maryknoll order and worked with the poor in Bolivia and El Salvador where he witnessed the results of human rights violations. In 1990 he founded School of Americas Watch that works to close the army training facility. He has spent over four years in US Federal prisons for nonviolent protests against the training of Latin American soldiers at the US Army Combat School in Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Fr. Roy Bourgeois will speak on Saturday, October 28 from 2-4 PM at TESC' Lecture Hall 3. The event is free and open to the public. It is being co-sponsored by TESC's Radical Catholics for Justice and Peace, Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation, Olympia Task Force on El Salvador and St. Michael's Social Justice Committee. For more information call Bob Zeigler at 570-0848.

Welfare Rights Organizing

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

Problems with your landlord?

Call the Thurston County Tenants Union hotline at (360)**943-3036 or come by our office at 203 E. 4th Ave #412.**

Dance O' Dance

Halloween themed episode of Dance O' Dance (LIVE monthly hourlong public access program in Olympia) to be taped on Friday the 13th of October. Dance O' Dance is in its third year on TCTV (now channel 22) and is seen twice weekly: on Tuesdays at 4pm & Fridays at 8pm.

Approximately 200 dancers have appeared over the past 39 episodes. Dancers are encouraged to suggest/ submit their own musical preferences and dance in prepared solo or group pieces of work. Considerable effort is made to play new local independent music.

Letter To The Editor

With all of the hype and controversy over KAOS, some important facts are in danger of being obscured. The most important is that there is a NATION-WIDE struggle for the heart and soul of Community Radio. Forward-thinking people of all persuasions are being challenged to examine the situation, and take a stand.

Why is Community Radio important? We all have our own points of reference. Mine is colored by spending many years in the Bay Area, where I passed much time listening to KPFA in Berkeley, and KPOO in San Francisco. These stations are distinguished by their commitment to progressive, even revolutionary principles: they may actually put the cultural and political expressions of people of color, leftists, women and other marginalized peoples FIRST. This defines their mission/vision, and it is the thread that ties together the diverse programming they present.

KAOS, on the other hand, has had trouble with such a unifying vision, as evidenced by the important changes in its Mission Statement. Whereas 1993's Mission Statement specified that providing a voice for groups such as disabled, working-class, immigrant and queer people was central to KAOS, the new (1997?) Mission Statement is far more vague. It simply states, and I quote: KAOS serves the interests of Evergreen students and the citizens of Thurston County and the surrounding areas, giving special attention to the interests of people historically ignored by the media.

Thus, we begin to see the emerging face of a problem at KAOS. Audience-Building? Professionalism? Maybe, but what is the vision, the purpose? Ego and entertainment are not enough!

I agree with Paul Pearson that KAOS is not in extreme danger, both because of the strength of "the Community", and because KAOS is not such a juicy plum to pick. I will point out though, that the infamous "report" that was so instrumental in getting me terminated from KAOS says that "Test Schedule B" is the People's Choice. If you look further into the documents, you find that this schedule would not require much, if any, local programming between 6 AM and 6 PM!

The report also states that listeners like the idea of Native, Latino and Gay/ Lesbian programming, but might not actually listen. It goes on to note the recommendation that some of this programming might be better put on the Web-site, but not on the air. As a Panamanian/Colombian Jew, this troubles me. Bear in mind that all of this was from a grand total of 24 focus group participants, many of whom do not listen to KAOS, but instead had to rely on biased and misleading questions! I should note also that their demographic information was either not collected (sexuality, disability etc.), or deliberately hidden from the public (ethnicity, income etc.).

I know all this because I have obtained the information through submitting document requests, which KAOS has to comply with, according to State Law. Although it has been often misunderstood, this is why KAOS and Evergreen have silenced me: because I legally obtained the report and made the effort to bring it to the Community!

Yes, it was a mistake for me to turn on the mike in the control room, but that is not why I was fired. I have been under the gun at KAOS now for over a year, and the reason was my coverage of the struggle within the Pacifica Network and the bigger struggle it represents: "Audience-Building" vs. Grass Roots Radio. I was told LAST YEAR to stop covering Pacifica, under threat of losing my show, which is something I took very seriously! It appears that I was treading too close to some "forbidden" territory. If we have access to the various perspectives, we can each decide for ourselves where we stand. Freedom of information is key.

Some long-time Community Radio veterans are down with the "Audience Building" faction that wreaked such havoc on KPFA in Berkeley. They may be quite sincere in their support for a mainstreaming agenda, but their lack of political vision betrays them. In their struggle to secure funding for themselves and their friends, they may find themselves being "played" by the leaders of

(Continued next page)

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NO WAR

Briefs, continued

the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which has many millions of Federal Dollars to throw around.

Just so you know, the President of the CPB is a 25 year veteran of the US Information Agency, where he helped run such projects as Radio Free Europe, Voice of America and Radio Marti. Not only is the USIA all about disseminating US propaganda, it's also serves the agenda of the CIA! Adittionally, a USIA veteran is heading NPR, and Pacifica National just hired someone to produce Democracy Now who has worked for Radio Free Asia- so I would say that our hopes for radical and independent radio are probably in deep trouble. It all starts with vision.

Seeing to it that Evergreen hires a new Station Manager with vision is extremely important. Let Tom Mercado know what you think- it really does matter.

We also need some meaningful mechanisms to keep the Community strong within our Community Radio. Beginning steps might include: participatory dialogue between listeners and staff about KAOS (on-air and off), a real Community Board, and a Programmer's Association or Union.

I have faith in the power of the radical community in and around Olympia. I believe that we can create a KAOS that will take the lead in telling the Powers-That-Be that progressive vision does matter, that we are strongly in solidarity with the journalists and cultural workers working for social change. We can do it!

Austin Kelley
Ex(?) KAOS programmer

Letter To The Editor

One thing that is noticeably absent from the two major political campaigns is . . . you guessed it, issues. There is nothing that threatens a democracy more than a lack of public discourse on a wide variety of national issues.

The Commission on Public Debates will not allow minor party candidates to participate in the political debates. What could be more undemocratic? Perhaps both major parties are afraid of being exposed as being political lap dogs, looking out for Pentagon and Corporate interests around the globe.

Both major parties favor the militarization of outer space, (SDI) which would be a gross violation of the 1972 Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty.

Both parties favor state sanctioned killings which have included the innocent, and mentally ill.

Both parties support a hypocritical foreign policy which has denied our neighbors in Cuba, and the people of Iraq, access to a free flow of life saving resources, while at the same time extending most favored nation status to China who has an abysmal human rights record.

Both parties have been bought and payed for by a corporate culture that exploits third world workers, while denying good paying jobs to depressed areas in our own inner cities.

Both parties have exchanged human rights for corporate rights.

Both parties continue the failed "Drug War" that continues to divert billions from essential programs (education, infrastructure, etc.)

The School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia, continues to train terrorists for duty in Central and South America. This terrible school has survived both Democrat and Republican administrations for several decades.

The Clinton administration has entered us into a civil war in Columbia, the real purpose of which is to protect corporate interests within that country.

Under both parties, the pharmaceutical industry continues to rob the American people.

Under both parties, inhumane corporate animal factories are allowed to pollute the environment, and poison our precious fresh water resources.

The Democrats continual drift to the right, topped off by their choosing a pentagon junkie for V.P., has blurred the line between Democrat and Republican philosophy to the point of wondering if a merger isn't pending.

Abandoning the Democratic Party is the only option for many progressive Democrats who see Ralph Nader's fledgling Green Party as the only way to express their political beliefs.

The questions for progressive Democrats to ask is: If, we lose the White House in November, exactly what have we really lost given that most, if not all, core issues will go unattended anyway.

Moreover, how does a fledgling second party get off the ground if they continually respond to the so called "lesser of the evils?"

Fred Rakovich

Oppose Hate Crimes and Support Human Rights for All

Vigil and Candle-Light Procession Thursday October 5th

Olympia will join hundreds of communities nationwide on THURSDAY OCTOBER 5 in saying "NO" to hate crimes and "YES" to human rights for everyone. The public is warmly invited to an evening program, candle-light procession, and vigil. People will gather between 6:30 and 7:00p.m. on the second floor of United Churches, 110 11th Avenue, Olympia, and enjoy light refreshments. At 7:00 a brief, inclusive program will remember victims of hate crimes, address the big picture of injustice and violence, and provide candles for the candle-light procession. Participants will proceed silently on a route leading to the Tivoli Fountain on the Capitol Campus. At the Tivoli Fountain participants will vigil briefly and rededicate themselves to promote nonviolence and human rights. The event will end by 8:30. Everything is free of charge and wheelchair-accessible. Let us rededicate ourselves and call upon others to:

* Act nonviolently as agents of healing in our local community. Speak out when people are attacked because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, gender, or disability
* Raise a united voice against hate violence
* Deliberately work at building a culture of peace and nonviolence.

"Hands Are Not for Hurting" Program to Stop Violence Will Be Introduced at Children's Day Celebration Sunday October 8. Heartsparkle Players present Playback Theater with anti-violence theme.

A program that helps children and adults reduce violence against children will be one of more than 30 activities offered at the 8th annual Children's Day Celebration, 11am to 4pm. SUNDAY OCTOBER 8 at the Olympia Center, 222 N Columbia, in downtown Olympia.

The "Hands Are Not for Hurting" Program urges each child and adult to pledge "I will not use my hands or my words for hurting myself or others." Each person who pledges this will trace his or her hand on purple paper, cut out the handprint, and sign their name and date. Displaying it in a prominent place will remind each person of the pledge.

The "Hands Are Not for Hurting" program, which includes other possible activities, is suitable for all levels of schools, children & youth groups, religious organizations, families, and other community settings. It can easily be combined with other violence-prevention activities.

In a nearby room the Heartsparkle Players will present Playback Theater for young people. Children will be able to describe their own experiences about making friends, dealing with conflict, and other subjects. The Heartsparkle Players will act out the situations with understanding, empathy, and a constructive message.

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation presents information about the "Hands Are Not for Hurting" program and supports this Heartsparkle Players performance as part of an ongoing series of activities to help carry out the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World (2001- 2010) and to build "a culture of peace and nonviolence" in the greater Thurston County area.

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has worked since 1976 on a variety of issues and activities to promote peace, social justice, and nonviolence. The Olympia FOR is the local chapter of the nationwide Fellowship of Reconciliation, which was founded in 1915.

For information about the "Hands Are Not for Hurting" project, contact Kristen at 357-3553or kjdahle@home.com. For information about Heartsparkle Players, call Dede at 943-6772. For information about the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation or the International Decade of Peace and Nonviolence, call Glen Anderson at 491-9093. For information about other aspects of the 8th annual Children's Day Celebration, call the City of Olympia at 753-8380.

Local Zone of Peace Projects in Usulutan, El Salvador

The Foundation of Self-Sufficiency supports sustainable development and environmental restoration projects in southeastern El Salvador where peasants have organized themselves into a Local Zone of Peace to heal the community and the earth from the effects of exploitation and war. Hurricane Mitch in 1998 left many of these people homeless.

The Foundation is fundraising to provide each family a rooster and 6 chickens ($30) and help build a home outside the most flood prone areas ($100). They also have undertaken a major effort to confront youth gang violence.

During the civil war almost 1 million Salvadorans fled. Many came to the U.S. and worked in low paying jobs in large cities. Some of their children who had seen terrible violence since infancy joined youth gangs when they were in their teens here. Even though they were minors and had legal status here, more than 10,000 of these young people were deported unaccompanied back to El Salvador. In impoverished El Salvador, they sustained and developed more youth gangs. In effect youth gangs were imported from the U.S. to El Salvador and these gangs have moved to rural El Salvador.

The Foundation has worked with Mennonite conflict resolution trainers in the communities as a project of the Local Zone of Peace. A recent effort is mediation work with rival youth gangs. The Foundation has applied for grants to continue this work. However, until the grants are funded, sometime in 2001, they need funding to continue the mediation work.

Any contributions to the youth gang mediation or the chicken or housing projects would be deeply appreciated. Contributions are tax deductible and can be made to the above Foundation address. For more information, contact Bob Zeigler at 570-0848.

There are ties between the Foundation's work and our local community. In 1998 Alice Curtis, Teresa Jordan and Bob Zeigler went to El Salvador to take part in the march and declaration of the Local Zone of Peace. In 1999 and this year, Lacey school teachers, Dixie Reimer and Vicki Leonard have gone to the Local Zone of Peace and worked with the school in Ciudad Romero. Each year Jose "Chencho" Alas visits Olympia to talk about projects in El Salvador.

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!
SEE PAGE 2

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.R.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

OCTOBER 2000

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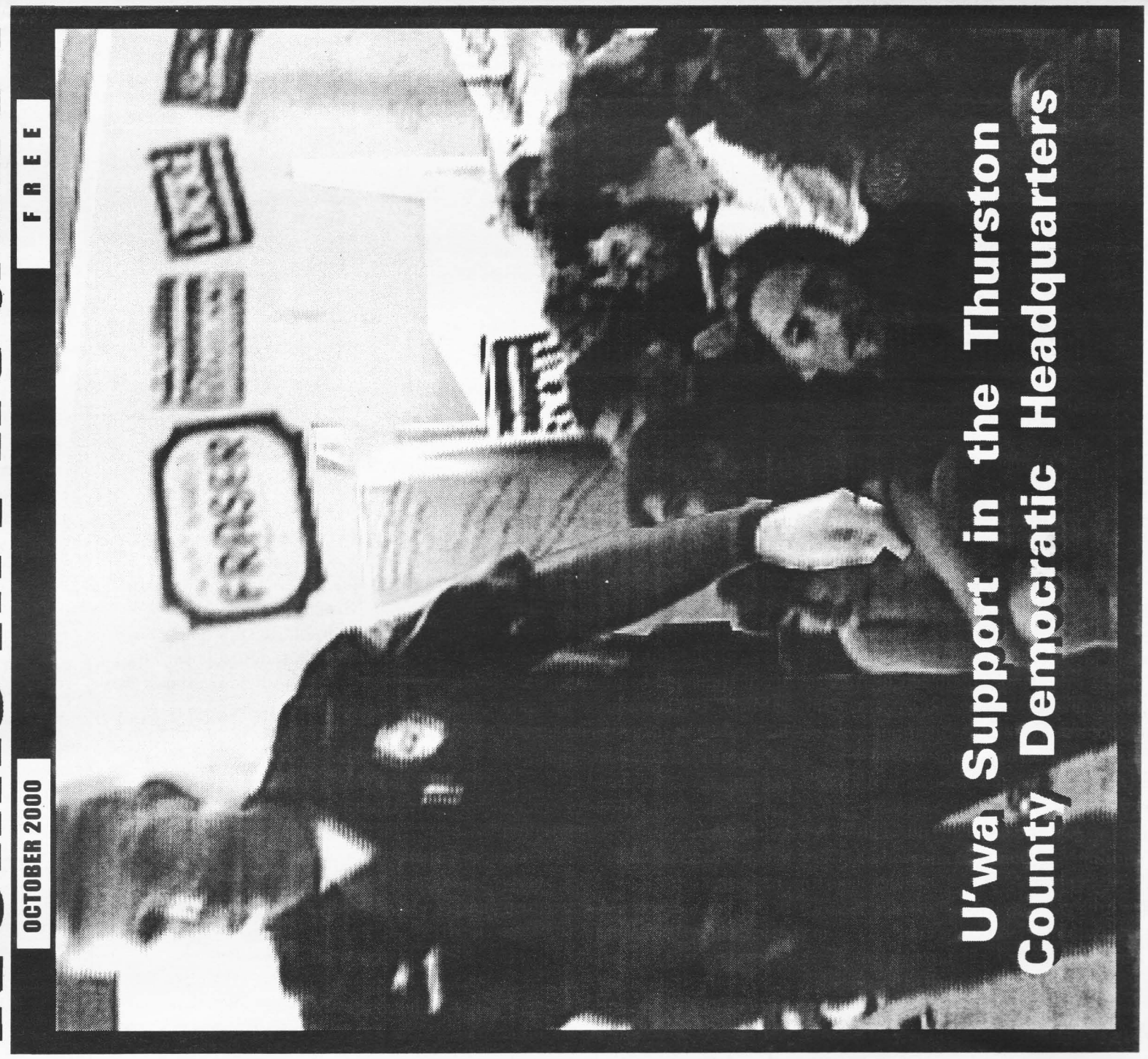

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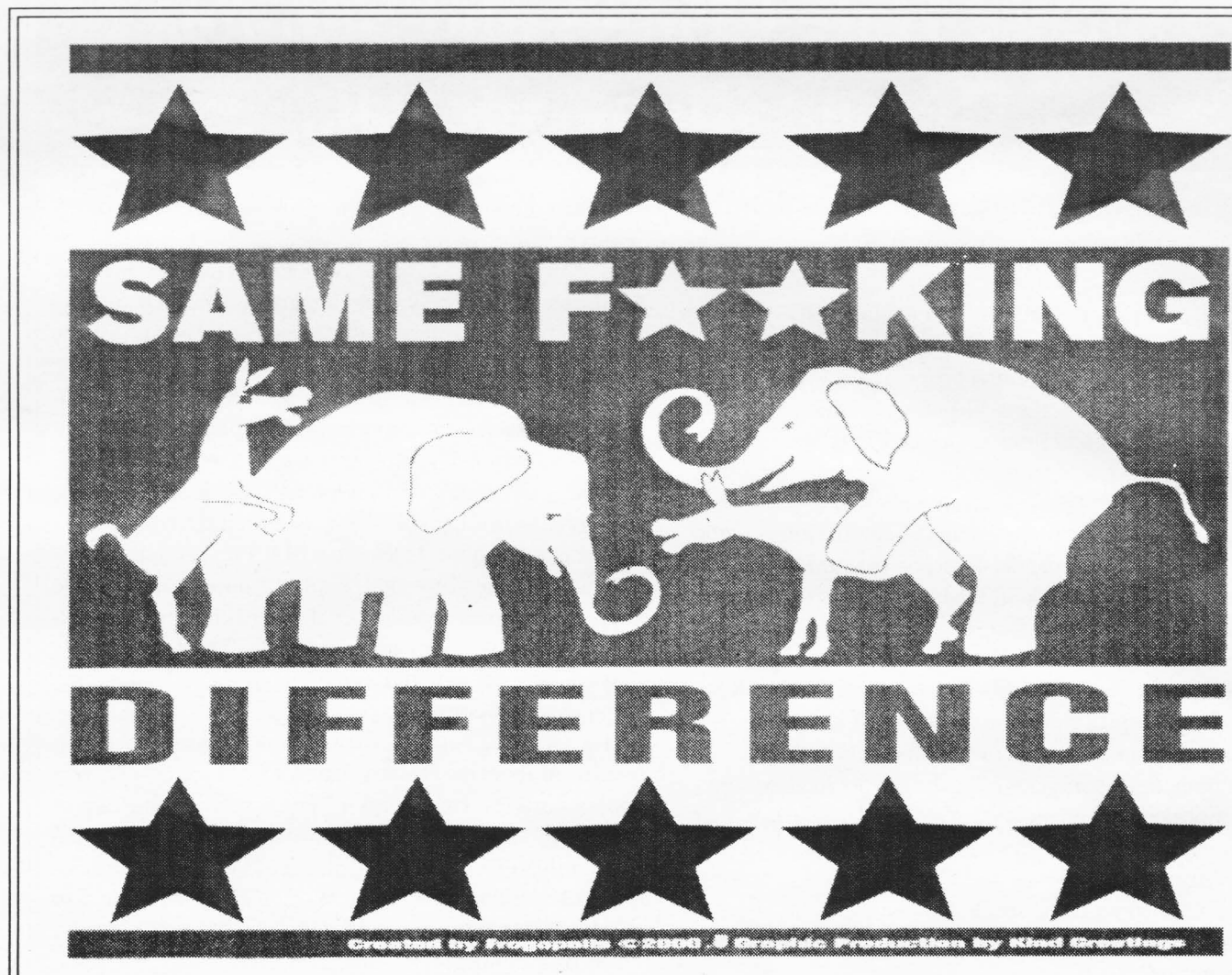

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